

IREDELL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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HEALTH DIRECTOR



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Iredell County Health Department

NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 17, 2014
9:30am (time of release)

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT WILL DISTRIBUTE POTASSIUM IODIDE (KI) TABLETS

The Iredell County Health Department and local volunteers will distribute potassium iodide (KI) tablets to Iredell County residents on Saturday, September 27th, 2014 from 9am-1pm at no charge. The potassium iodide, or KI, is for residents of Iredell County living in the 10-mile Emergency Planning Zones (EPZ) surrounding the McGuire Nuclear Power Plant. To learn more about Nuclear Emergency Preparedness and the EPZ visit: <http://www.duke-energy.com/safety/nuclear-emergency-preparedness/mcguire.asp> All counties in the EPZ, (Mecklenburg, Gaston, Lincoln, Iredell and Catawba) will distribute KI pills to their citizens on September 27th, from 9am-1pm. For more information contact your local county health department.

In order to make the distribution process as convenient as possible, pick-up will be at two locations. Carpooling is encouraged to help control the amount of traffic at the distribution sites. To keep the line moving, Iredell County Health Department will be using a drive-thru method with the assistance of Iredell County Sheriff's Deputies, Iredell County Emergency Management and Mooresville Fire Department volunteers.

Iredell County residents living in the 10-mile EPZ may pick-up their household's KI at either of the following locations:

Locations for Potassium Iodide (KI) Distribution		
Location: Pine Lake Preparatory	Address: 1639 Mecklenburg Highway Mooresville, NC 28115 Off of Highway 115	Distribution Times for ALL LOCATIONS: Saturday September 27th 9am-1pm
Location: Woodland Heights Elementary	Address: 288 Forest Lake Blvd. Mooresville, NC 28117	

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Central Office
318 Turnersburg Hwy
Statesville, NC 28625
704 878-5300

Mooresville Office
610 E. Center Avenue
Mooresville, NC 28115
704 664-5281

Environmental Health
349 N. Center Street
Statesville, NC 28677
704 878-5358

<http://www.co.iredell.nc.us/Departments/Health/>

When you arrive at the distribution site, a volunteer will ask you for your address to help ensure you are eligible. You will then be guided into one of two lines of cars passing by a tent. As you approach the tent, you will be handed a clipboard containing a sign-up sheet to fill out in the car. A volunteer will review the information for completeness and determine the number of KI tablets you are to receive. You will be given a packet containing four potassium iodide (KI) tablets per member of your household along with an information sheet, explaining its proper use. **Read this information sheet at your earliest convenience and DO NOT take the tablets at this time.**

The public health system is working with several local pharmacies to encourage them to stock potassium iodide (KI) for purchase by those ineligible for the state supplied tablets. For a list of locations visit: <http://www.co.iredell.nc.us/Departments/Health/EmP/forms/WheretobuyKI.pdf>

Potassium iodide (KI) is a salt of iodine that has been approved by the FDA as a non-prescription drug. KI is for use as a blocking agent to prevent the human thyroid gland from absorbing radioactive iodine and causing cancer. However, KI may not provide people with 100% protection against all radioactive iodine, according to the Centers for Disease Control. And, it does not provide protection from full body irradiation or other radioactive elements that may be the result of a nuclear power plant release.

KI is considered safe for most people but can cause minor side effects such as gastrointestinal disturbances and rashes. **Those who are allergic to iodine should not take KI. Anyone who is not sure if they can take KI should talk to their doctor and pharmacist. Do not take KI unless public health officials tell you to do so.**

For detailed information about potassium iodide tablets, refer to the information sheet that will accompany the KI tablets given to each household at the time of distribution. You are also encouraged to ask your personal physician or pharmacist about KI. You may visit the Centers for Disease Control website at <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/radiation/ki.asp> or the North Carolina Division of Public Health Preparedness and Response website at <http://www.epi.state.nc.us/epi/phpr/ki/ki.html> for additional information. If you are unable to get the answers you need, you may call the Iredell County Health Department at (704) 878-5300 for assistance.

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